

GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
OHIO

524 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-3353
TDD: (202) 224-6997
<http://voinovich.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3504

APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

**ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS**

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 1, 2010

Dear Fellow Ohioan,

I am pleased to present my annual report for the first half of the 111th Congress. This report describes what I have accomplished over the past year in the United States Senate on behalf of our state and the nation. Throughout my more than 40 years in public service, I have lived and led by the belief that “Together we can do it!” That spirit continues to guide my work today as I represent you in Washington.

When I announced a year ago that I would not seek re-election, I promised that it was my intention to wind up and not down, just like I did in the mayor’s office as well as the governor’s office.

In my lifetime of public service, I have never seen the country in such perilous circumstances. Frankly, I never imagined I would see the national and international challenges confronting America today. We are arguably in the worst recession since the Great Depression. Ohio continues to be hit hard by job losses and a foreclosure hurricane, and Ohio families and businesses are taking the brunt of it. I feel that it is my duty to provide a safety net for those caught in the storm.

Over the last year I have devoted myself and my time to causes that I know will make a difference in the lives of struggling Ohioans as well as goals I can accomplish before the end of 2010. Some of the highlights include:

Creating Jobs: I spent the last year focused on developing proposals that will create jobs and have fought for the passage of a robust new highway bill – a real jobs bill at a time when construction unemployment is twice the national average. The reauthorization of a multi-year surface transportation bill would put people to work and accelerate key projects around Ohio, like the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati and the I-90 Innerbelt Bridge in Cleveland, which are impacting our economy and contributing to traffic congestion in our state. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) recently gave me his commitment that the reauthorization of a multi-year surface transportation bill will be brought to the Senate floor for a vote in 2010, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill this year so we can put Americans back to work, deal with our deteriorating infrastructure, and reduce our carbon footprint.

Tackling the National Debt: In 2009, I continued to bring national attention to our astronomical and growing national debt. This is an issue I have been pushing with my colleagues since 1999, and in 2006 I proposed a bipartisan commission to examine our tax and entitlement systems and present long-term solutions to place the United States on a fiscally sustainable course. After repeatedly taking to the Senate floor over the years to discuss my plan for a bipartisan debt commission and remind Americans of our ever-increasing national debt, Congress and President Obama have finally decided to embrace my idea. Although I would have preferred to see Congressional passage of a statutory debt commission, the president has chosen to create one by Executive

Order (E.O.). Senator Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have promised to bring the recommendations of the E.O. commission to the floor for a vote in their respective houses, and I will hold them to their word.

A Leading Voice in the Climate Change Debate: I have listened to your pleas for help and remained at the forefront of the debate on climate change and strategies for protecting our environment without harming our economy.

Becoming Energy Independent: For a decade in the U.S. Senate, I have been calling for a “Second Declaration of Independence” from foreign sources of oil. This year I continued my commitment to the safe and secure growth of nuclear power to help meet our nation’s need for a clean, reliable, cost-effective and diverse energy supply. Nuclear power is not only important to reduce emissions for the nation, but it is important for stimulating job growth in Ohio. Over the past year, I encouraged the formation of partnerships among Ohio-based nuclear plant component manufacturing businesses and key international nuclear vendors to create more high-tech manufacturing jobs in the state. I also introduced the National Energy Security Act, legislation aimed at boosting the nation’s energy security and national security by reducing America’s reliance on foreign oil.

This is just an overview of some of the issues I am working on in Washington. My annual report will give you an opportunity to read more about these efforts, as well as several other issues that are impacting your families, our state, our country and the international community.

If you have received my annual report in the past, you will notice that we’ve made an effort to streamline this document and make it more reader-friendly. I hope you find these changes useful and I urge you to look at the Executive Outline and review the topics that most interest you. And as always, I welcome your comments on how the report can be improved and would love to hear your perspective on the issues addressed within. Feel free to contact my office or visit my Web site at www.voinovich.senate.gov to share your thoughts.

Be assured that in my last year in the Senate I will do all I can to make a difference for you and your family, the state of Ohio, our nation and the world.

Sincerely,



George V. Voinovich
United States Senator

U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich

Report on the 111th Congress

2009



“When you run into Senator George V. Voinovich around Capitol Hill these days, he doesn't have the look of a guy easing into retirement. The Ohio Republican still sees opportunities to advance his agenda and make headway in such tough arenas as overhauling the tax code before he departs the Senate at the end of

2010.” – Opinion, Jonathan Riskind, *Voinovich is Far from a Lame Duck*, The Columbus Dispatch, March 8, 2009

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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

[The Flight of the Debt Hawk](#)

From his time as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Cuyahoga County Auditor, Cuyahoga County Commissioner, Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, Mayor of Cleveland and Governor of Ohio, to his present role as Ohio's senior United States Senator, George V. Voinovich has strived for more than 40 years to make all levels of government "work harder and smarter and do more with less."

Praised as an "independent thinker – something Washington could use more of," by *Columbus CEO Magazine*, George Voinovich consistently represents common sense, traditional Ohio values and fights for the Buckeye State's economy. He believes that federal, state and local governments should honor their responsibilities to citizens, use taxpayer dollars efficiently, and bring growth to the economy.

Senator Voinovich has been calling for fiscal responsibility since the beginning of his career in public service. As mayor of Cleveland, *USA Today* credited him with "turning the nation's 22nd largest city from a laughingstock in the 1970s into a three-time All-America City winner during the 1980s," after Cleveland became the first major city to declare bankruptcy since the Depression. His work rebuilding the city through public-private partnerships earned him praise from the National Urban Coalition, which hailed him as one of four distinguished urban mayors in America.

As governor, he led Ohio through the recession of the early-1990s, taking over a bleeding red budget and bringing it back into the black. During the Voinovich gubernatorial administration, unemployment hit a 25-year low thanks to the creation of 600,000 new jobs. By curbing state spending and balancing the budget, then-Governor Voinovich led reforms of the state government that held budgetary growth to its lowest rate in 30 years.

Today, Senator Voinovich's priorities of fiscal responsibility and improving the lives of Ohioans remain steadfast. Proving the *Wall Street Journal's* early prediction correct, Senator Voinovich has inherited the debt-hawk mantle by consistently pushing for initiatives to address fundamental tax and entitlement reform, keep spending responsible and improve fiscal discipline.

"[Voinovich] is known for his concern about the federal balance sheet, which is a scary thing to read these days. [He] is no Randian wingnut, but, as a former governor and a practical guy, he hates the idea of debt. He frets, not without reason, that we now owe a greater percentage of our patrimony to others (including our descendants) than at any time since the end of World War II."

– Article, *Independent Minded*, Newsweek
January 25, 2010

[Putting America's Fiscal House Back in Order](#)

As the *Youngstown Vindicator* wrote, "Once he latches on to an issue, he doesn't let go until he is satisfied with the outcome" when it comes to America's economic challenges. That commitment is bringing success. Since coming to the Senate in 1999, he has called on Congress to balance the budget and pay down the debt. When Senator Voinovich arrived in the Senate, the gross national debt stood at \$5.6 trillion dollars, or 61 percent of the GDP. Today it stands at \$12.4 trillion – more than doubling in 10 years. From 2008 to 2009 alone, the federal debt increased 19 percent, boosting the country's national debt as a percentage of the GDP from 70 percent to 83 percent in just one year. Each American's share of the national debt is now \$38,400, up from \$20,500 in 1999.

Faced with these astronomical figures, Senator Voinovich introduced the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act each congress since 2006. His landmark SAFE Commission Act – which proposed establishing a national commission to examine our tax and entitlement systems and present long-term solutions to place the United States on a fiscally sustainable course – earned broad political support from the Heritage Foundation, Concord Coalition, Brookings Institution, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. The senator repeatedly took to the Senate floor over the years to discuss his plan for a bipartisan debt commission and remind his colleagues that our increasing national debt is the biggest challenge facing our nation today.

“As Senator George V. Voinovich’s term in Congress comes to a close, he could leave no more-important legacy than creation of a panel that could begin turning the nation away from its ruinous course of debt... [T]he personal intervention of Voinovich, with his considerable deficit-hawk credentials, will help.” – Editorial, Debt-reduction panel might be the only way to get Congress to act, The Columbus Dispatch, January 24, 2010

For too long, Senator Voinovich felt alone in the desert in his calls for reform – but his years of tireless effort did not go unnoticed.

In a Senate Budget Committee hearing in November 2009, Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND) stated, “Senator Voinovich has been as committed as any member to the need to deal with our long-term debt. And Senator Voinovich has not just talked about it. He has not only talked the talk, he has walked the walk, and he is before us...with a specific proposal. And over and over and over,

Senator Voinovich has demonstrated his commitment to doing something serious and significant to get our long-term debt under control.”

Senator Voinovich saw one of his brightest days in the Senate last November when he joined the Chairman Conrad and the Ranking Member of the Senate Budget Committee, Judd Gregg (R-NH), in introducing the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act – which was closely modeled after his SAFE Commission Act. By the end of 2009, the senator was pleased to see the fiscal wake-up call being heard throughout the country.

In December 2009, Senator Voinovich voted in favor of a short-term increase to the debt limit after receiving a commitment from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) that the Conrad-Gregg fiscal task force legislation would be considered in early 2010 as an amendment to the House-passed bill to increase the debt ceiling for the longer term.

On January 19, 2010, the senator met with President Obama in the Oval Office to relate the urgency of our nation’s fiscal crisis and the importance of passing the statutory debt commission bill. He personally asked the president to support the legislation and, four days later, President Obama publically endorsed the Conrad-Gregg statutory debt commission.



Senator Voinovich departs the West Wing after a private meeting with President Obama on the national debt. The senator personally urged the president to endorse the Conrad-Gregg statutory debt commission, which he did four days later.

Unfortunately, the bill came seven votes shy of the 60 votes needed to pass the Senate. The next day, President Obama announced during his State of the Union Address that because Congress failed to act, he would be creating a debt commission by Executive Order (E.O.).

Senator Voinovich was disappointed that President Obama did not call on congressional leadership to revisit the Conrad-Gregg Fiscal Task Force Amendment, instead deciding to move forward with his own E.O. commission, which cannot constitutionally mandate any Congressional action. President Obama's E.O. does not require an up or down vote under the expedited procedures included in the Conrad-Gregg Bipartisan Fiscal Task Force.

Although Senator Voinovich would prefer a statutory commission through the legislative process to tackle the fiscal challenges facing our nation, he is acutely aware of the urgency of the situation. He looks forward to learning more about the president's E.O. commission, but still remains hopeful that Congress will act to pass the much stronger Conrad-Gregg proposal so Washington can solve America's fiscal crisis once and for all.

[An Eye for Fiscal Responsibility on the Appropriations Committee](#)

Senator Voinovich's more than 44 years in public office have been empowered by the mantra: "Gone are the days when public officials are measured by how much they spend on a problem. The new realities dictate that public officials are now judged on whether they can work harder and smarter, and do more with less."

His experiences tackling budget crises at the local and state levels have given him a keen understanding that America's fiscal situation is dire and getting worse by the day. That experience helped pave the way to his appointment one year ago to the powerful Senate Committee on Appropriations.



"Ever since he arrived on Capitol Hill a decade ago, George Voinovich has been a strong voice for fiscal discipline." – Editorial, Desperate in the Senate, Akron Beacon Journal, December 14, 2009

Senator Voinovich's appointment was all the more important because over the last three years, Ohio has lost three of its appropriators – Mike DeWine, Ralph Regula and Dave Hobson. Senator Voinovich welcomed the opportunity to serve the people of Ohio on this vitally important committee during such trying times.

The senator believes Congress can be a true steward of the taxpayer dollar through transparency and prioritization, and he is committed to bringing the common sense, hard-nosed fiscal approach from his days as mayor of Cleveland and governor of Ohio to the appropriations process.

Senator Voinovich has long said that there is such a thing as a good earmark, and federal

funding is the "yeast that raises the dough" for vital state and local projects. In just one year on the Appropriations Committee, Senator Voinovich has been successful in helping bring \$225 million in federal funds to Ohio. Throughout this report, you will find examples of how and where the senator was influential in putting federal dollars to work for taxpayers in Ohio. During his last year in office, Senator Voinovich hopes to be able to help Ohio in a way that is fiscally responsible while pushing Congress to work harder and smarter, and do more with less.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Fighting for Jobs Through a Robust New Highway Bill

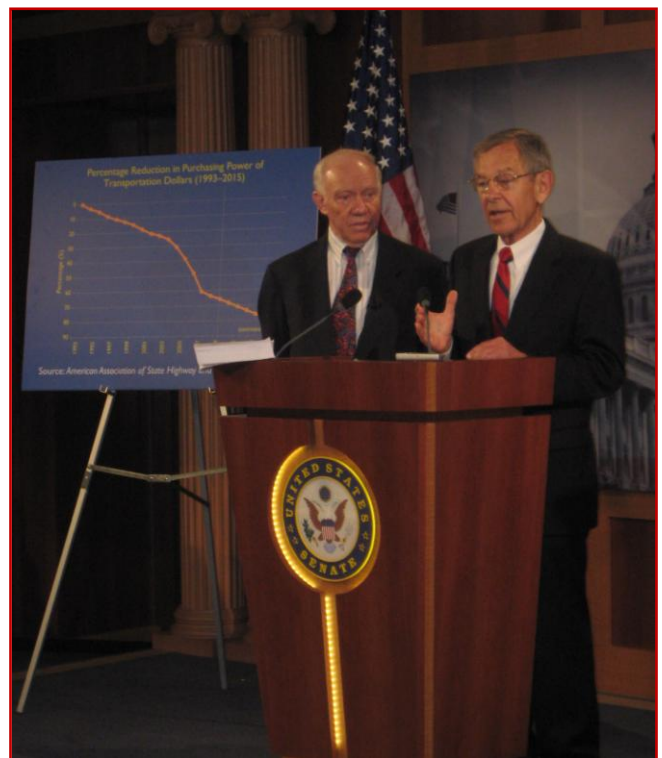
As Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee's Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee and a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies, Senator Voinovich has long said that passing a surface transportation reauthorization bill is the best way to create jobs and provide an immediate stimulus for the economy.

Infrastructure spending is one of the most efficient economic investments the federal government can make. Every dollar spent on infrastructure generates about \$5.70 in economic activity, and every \$1 billion invested creates and saves roughly 34,700 jobs.

Many state transportation programs have declined over the past several years, victims of program cuts precipitated by the recession's impact on state revenues. As a result, most states have been operating under capacity. With the inability to plan for either the short or long term, the transportation construction industry is suffering its worst cycle since World War II, and is currently experiencing an 18.7 percent unemployment rate – the highest of any industry in America. Ohio alone lost 35,200 construction jobs in 2009, a 17 percent decrease.

The tragic collapse of the I-35W Bridge in Minnesota in August 2007 also made clear that the deterioration of our nation's infrastructure systems is impacting the overall welfare and safety of the American people.

The president's stimulus bill held much promise when it came to job creation and renewing America's infrastructure. But, instead of funding federal responsibilities that are shovel-ready – like highways and sewers, which would put people back to work quickly and the results of which would contribute to economic growth – President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus bill was filled with items that were not the best bang for the tax dollar. The bill was filled with programs that ultimately have not been as stimulative as substantive infrastructure spending would have been. Senator Voinovich voted against the stimulus in February 2009 because it included only \$27 billion for highway and transportation projects.



Senator Voinovich joins the Chairman of the House Transportation Committee in July 2009 to discuss why a robust new transportation bill is the key to putting Americans back to work.

But Senator Voinovich's fight for transportation infrastructure funding did not end with his vote against a stimulus bill that failed to meet America's priorities. In July 2009, Senator Voinovich and U.S. Representative James L. Oberstar (MN-8), Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, held a bipartisan news conference on why a robust transportation bill is the key to restoring our nation's crumbling infrastructure and putting Americans back to work. They discussed their opposition to an 18-month extension of the already inadequate 2005 highway bill being proposed by the Obama Administration and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

(D-CA), and their plans for delaying the next the job-creating highway bill. Senator Voinovich successfully blocked the 18-month extension from being considered by Congress.

In light of President Obama's announcement that he would be holding a December 2009 jobs summit at the White House, Senator Voinovich sent a letter to the president calling on the administration to create jobs through highway and infrastructure projects. The senator again stated his case for a transportation reauthorization bill, reiterating that it is the best way to create jobs and provide an immediate stimulus to the economy.

Even Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has said transportation investments are one of the few areas where federal spending is guaranteed to yield near-term economic gains. Senator Reid recently gave Senator Voinovich a commitment that he will bring the reauthorization of a multi-year surface transportation bill to the floor for a vote in 2010. Senator Voinovich looks forward to working with Senator Reid, Senator Boxer and others to do so this year so they can put Americans back to work.

Senator Voinovich believes that a robust new transportation reauthorization bill is a three-fer: it is good for the environment – transportation contributes almost 30 percent to greenhouse gas emissions; good for the United States' competitive position in the global marketplace in terms of our economy and our infrastructure; and good for jobs at a time when construction unemployment is twice the national average. The bill's passage would spur the purchase of steel, concrete and other materials needed for construction projects and it would be the largest job-creation bill for the construction industry that the U.S. Congress could undertake.

[Helping Ohio Communities Update Sewer Systems](#)

In addition to his work to create jobs and provide an immediate stimulus for the economy through highway and infrastructure projects, Senator Voinovich is also concerned with water infrastructure in the United States. He introduced a bill in April 2009 to help at least 86 Ohio communities make renovations to outdated sewer systems. The Clean Water Affordability Act is legislation aimed at updating the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) outdated clean water affordability policy, which puts undue strain on the budgets of local communities and their citizens. The current policy does not provide for a full and accurate representation of the financial impact of clean water investment programs on communities struggling to meet federal regulations for improving their water infrastructure. Senator Voinovich's bill will help provide a more realistic approach to defining a community's financial capacity regarding long-term control plans for combined and sanitary sewer overflows. The bill also establishes a grant program for financially distressed municipalities to use for planning, design and construction of treatment facilities to control combined and sanitary sewer overflows. The language of the Clean Water Affordability Act was incorporated into the Water Infrastructure Financing Act, which passed the EPW Committee in May 2009. Senator Voinovich is hopeful that it will be taken up by the full Senate in 2010.

"Voinovich always has been restless to do the unglamorous things that make a difference in the quality of life, things like fixing highways and sewers and making bureaucracies more responsive to citizens. He abhors the tit-for-tat partisan gamesmanship of the Senate."

Opinion, Joe Hallett: Voinovich will leave Senate next year, but he won't go quietly,
Columbus Dispatch,
May 3, 2009

[Fighting to Fund Water Infrastructure and National Parks](#)

Senator Voinovich secured vital support for water infrastructure and national parks projects in the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations Conference Report. The bill, which will benefit Ohio companies, institutions and communities, included the following projects requested by the senator in his role as a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

Knox County Decentralized Sewer Project (Knox County): \$400,000

The funding will be used to eliminate sewage pollution and provide regionalization of sewer utilities within Knox County.

Little Squaw Creek Interceptor Project (Trumbull County): \$300,000

The funding will be used for the construction of a sanitary sewer pipe to an unsewered area of concern as identified in a consent decree entered into by Trumbull County and the Ohio EPA.

Fostoria Combined Sewer Overflows Elimination (City of Fostoria): \$500,000

The funding will be used for the study, design and construction of a new sanitary pump station and to eliminate two combined sewer overflows in the city of Fostoria.

Fremont Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan (City of Fremont): \$500,000

The funding will be used to improve the city of Fremont's wastewater treatment plant. The Sandusky River – a tributary of Lake Erie – receives discharges from combined sewer overflows in the city's sewer system.

Allan and Clay Township Sanitary Sewer Extension (Ottawa County): \$500,000

The funding will be used for the construction of a wastewater collection system to serve the unsewered areas within Clay Township.

Village of Ottawa Water Treatment Plant Improvements: \$500,000

The funding will be used to update aging treatment equipment and improve the infrastructure of the water treatment plant.

Neffs Sanitary Sewer Project (Belmont County): \$400,000

The funding will be used for the construction of a public sanitary sewer system which will alleviate health, safety and environmental concerns within the Neffs community and McMahon Creek, a tributary to the Ohio River.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Land Acquisition (Summit County): \$4 million

The funding will be used to purchase property for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The available property is the keystone acreage in one of the largest blocks of contiguous forestland in the park. It includes unparalleled nesting and feeding habitat for a spectacular diversity of wildlife along with three Cuyahoga River tributaries that contribute significantly to the area's water quality.

Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest (VFEF) Forest Legacy Project (Vinton County): \$1.6 million

VFEF is one of the nation's oldest research forests, and one of only two hardwood sites the national fire and Fire Surrogates Study is researching when it comes to the effects of fire on forest ecosystems. The forest features more than 50 years of irreplaceable forest research conducted in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio's timber industry, the Ohio State University, Ohio University, Hocking College and other academic institutions. This funding will allow for the consolidation of the property to protect and preserve it for future generations.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The Second Declaration of Independence

For a decade in the U.S. Senate, Senator Voinovich has been calling for a “Second Declaration of Independence” from foreign sources of energy, prompting the *Akron Beacon Journal* to editorialize that “Voinovich understands the need for an energy strategy that operates on many fronts – from renewables to nuclear power to improved efficiency.” The senator believes strongly in the importance of becoming energy independent and openly voices his support for increasing domestic production, encouraging efficiency and conservation, and promoting technology and innovation. Establishing a sound energy policy is critical to protecting American jobs and reducing energy costs for millions of families and businesses across America.

Senator Voinovich has supported increased domestic exploration for a decade and insists that America needs to embark on a new commitment to the issue of supplying our own oil and using our domestic resources to increase supply. That is why the senator supports exploratory drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). He also urges a more conscientious approach to using our resources, and has introduced the National Energy Security Act of 2009 – a bipartisan bill that leads America into a future free of an oil-based economy.

Senator Voinovich understands that crafting a comprehensive and economically viable solution to climate change is a vital component of a successful national energy policy. Having listened to Ohioans pleas for help, he remains at the forefront of the debate on climate change and strategies for protecting our environment without harming our economy. His voice has helped save thousands of Ohio jobs and protected seniors and working families from sky-rocketing natural gas, electricity and gasoline costs.

***“Senator George Voinovich
understands a hard truth about
combating climate change.” -***
Editorial, *Nuclear spring*,
Akron Beacon Journal,
June 22, 2009

And, the senator is committed to the safe and secure growth of nuclear power to help meet our nation’s need for a clean, reliable, cost-effective and diverse energy supply. He believes finding a solution to climate change will require the rebirth of the U.S. nuclear industry, and he has been instrumental in expanding the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee’s attention beyond routine oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to focus on the role of nuclear energy in the context of economic development and climate change policy. Nuclear power is not only important to reduce emissions for the nation, but it is important for stimulating job growth in Ohio.

Supporting Clean Energy Technology

Senator Voinovich serves as Ranking Member of the EPW Committee’s Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, and is also a member of the Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee and the Green Jobs and the New Economy Subcommittee. In these roles he stays acutely aware of the fact that Ohioans are struggling, and are facing the looming prospect of additional cap-and-trade taxes.

To that end, he is advocating for the development of a comprehensive and economically viable solution to climate change. In 2009, he continued to fill the void in the climate debate as he did in 2007 and 2008 by making it clear that an economy-wide cap-and-trade scheme is not the only viable policy option. There are alternative policies that are less intrusive, less costly and that will achieve reductions in emissions. Senator Voinovich is working to develop compromise legislation regarding climate change that does not impose unilateral costs that hurt America’s economy and drive jobs overseas. Instead, the senator is looking to jump start technology and engage our international partners through collaborative, multi-lateral efforts to develop and

deploy the clean energy technologies that everyone recognizes are necessary to solve this global environmental problem.

In September 2009, the climate debate ramped up in the Senate with the introduction of the Boxer-Kerry climate change bill. Senator Voinovich approached this piece of legislation with skepticism, as it was based largely on the Waxman-Markey bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives a few months prior, which would have locked the United States into a series of overlapping mandates that disproportionately hurt states like Ohio which rely on coal for electricity and have a large manufacturing base. The American Council for Capital Formation concluded that the Waxman-Markey Bill could reduce average household income in Ohio by up to \$261 per year, increase energy costs by up to 20 percent, and result in a net loss of more than 100,000 jobs, with similar figures in other parts of the United States.

The senator worked to bring attention to the rushed schedule Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) set for the bill and her refusal to keep her commitment that the committee debate would be a transparent process, with time allowed for a thorough vetting of what had been proposed. For months, Senator Voinovich asked the Senate Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a complete analysis of climate legislation utilizing realistic assumptions, including the availability of offsets, potential growth in nuclear power, and the extent to which the bill would affect global climate change in light of participation by developing countries. Without this necessary



Senator Voinovich shakes hands with Senator Boxer after making a statement on behalf of the EPW Committee's Republican members, who boycotted the November 2009 business meeting after Senator Boxer refused to request a comprehensive analysis of the Boxer-Kerry climate bill from the EPA, choosing instead to move forward on the bill without bipartisan participation.

information, his colleagues in the Senate and on the EPW Committee would be making decisions in the dark – decisions that would affect every aspect of our nation's economy and touch the lives of every American.

While testifying before the EPW Committee, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson herself admitted that EPA did not conduct a full economic analysis of the Boxer-Kerry bill, but could complete one within weeks if asked to do so by Chairman Boxer.

Due to Chairman Boxer's refusal to listen to the concerns of her colleagues, the Republican members of the EPW Committee chose to boycott the EPW business meeting dealing with the rushed passage of the Boxer-Kerry bill. Senator Voinovich was chosen by his colleagues to make a statement on their

behalf at the meeting, and took Chairman Boxer to task for moving forward without bipartisan participation. Her unprecedented move not only violated longstanding committee tradition and rules, but also threatens the economic well-being of the American people.

Following Chairman Boxer's unprecedented move, Senator Voinovich led a letter along with several colleagues to Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) regarding his concerns that members on both sides of the aisle were prevented from offering amendments to one of the most important bills ever debated in the EPW Committee:

"I am deeply disappointed and mystified in the hasty, unprecedented action of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee," Senator Voinovich wrote. "This morning, Chairman Boxer chose to move forward to discharge the Boxer-Kerry bill without comprehensive analysis from the Environmental Protection Agency – analysis that would have provided a full understanding of the bill's implications, and just as importantly, led to bipartisan participation."

He personally asked Senator Reid to take the necessary steps to ensure that a full, complete economic analysis of the legislation is conducted and made available to all members and the public well prior to floor action. Senator Reid has yet to bring a climate bill to the Senate floor for debate.

"Voinovich, described by the Columbus Dispatch as 'emotional' during the committee meeting, pleaded for a delay. He pointed out that climate change legislation 'will have consequences for every person in our country.' Yet the committee, led by Chairwoman Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said no. No wonder Voinovich was emotional. He understands that the Senate climate change bill could be devastating for many Ohioans." – Editorial, Liberals Don't Want Us to Know About Bill, Wheeling News-Register, November 8, 2009

[Pushing for a Binding Multi-National Agreement in Copenhagen](#)

In December 2009, Senator Voinovich was unable to attend the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference because of the health care debate in the Senate, but he made clear his concerns about the fact that the American negotiating team had called for a "political agreement" if a binding multi-national agreement could not be reached. Senator Voinovich stated that the goal of the Copenhagen conference should not have been an agreement per se. It should have been a realistic framework to address global warming.

Although he gave President Obama credit for taking personal responsibility for the development of climate policy, and spending some of his reservoir of political capital to that end, Senator Voinovich also remained skeptical of his goals. He promised the president that if he returned from the conference with a "political agreement" that contained unrealistic emissions mandates, financial obligations, and omitted the full participation of the developing world, that the U.S. Congress would be no closer to giving President Obama the legislative victory he so desired on climate.

Today, Senator Voinovich remains extremely skeptical of what President Obama called a "breakthrough in international negotiations" on climate change following Copenhagen. He is very concerned that developing countries like China, India and Brazil are simply giving the idea of international participation lip-service, and does not see much difference from the previous G8 agreement. The senator looks forward to learning more about the details of this "political agreement," what commitments were made, and what 'fair share' of the \$100 billion-a-year fund President Obama has agreed to for the United States.

In 2010, Senator Voinovich will continue his fight against any climate change policy that lacks investment in technology and creates an unfavorable environment for manufacturers in the United States, which would result in the transfer of manufacturing assets to developing countries – like China and India – that are historically less sensitive to environmental concerns. Such a result would not only harm the U.S. economy and shift American jobs overseas, but could actually increase global emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants from the manufacturing sector.

"It is good to see Ohio Sen. George Voinovich fighting hard against the Obama administration's move to impose crippling environmental regulations on American society, while bypassing Congress. Voinovich understands what Ohio and other manufacturing states would suffer if greenhouse gas standards are arbitrarily imposed." – Editorial, Congress, not EPA, should decide on U.S. climate rules, Lorain Morning Journal, December 9, 2009

Senator Voinovich believes a successful policy to address climate change should be guided by four basic, interconnected principals: 1) reductions should not cause economic dislocation or significantly increase the cost of living; 2) the availability of clean energy technologies should govern the timing of reduction requirements; 3) legislation must provide incentives to advance the pace of technology; and 4) requirements should not put U.S. companies at a disadvantage through unilateral mandates.

Clean Coal and Incentivizing Technology Development

Senator Voinovich also believes the development of carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) is critical to meeting the energy and environmental objectives of the United States. Much of the current coal fleet must be replaced by cleaner forms of energy. Wind and solar energy cannot make up the short-fall, because that would require an increase of more than 2,500 percent above our current generating capacity. Additionally, wind and solar cannot be relied upon for base-load electric power – when the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine we still need electricity.

The future growth in nuclear energy, although vital, will also be insufficient to meet our energy demands; therefore coal with CCS is a necessary component of a comprehensive national energy policy. Senator Voinovich also understands that countries like China and India will continue to use coal regardless of the



Senator Voinovich speaks at the U.S. Department of Energy's Piketon site, highlighting a large-scale effort to transition a portion of the site into America's first clean energy park. Projects like these are efforts the senator knows will bring thousands of good-paying jobs to the state.

availability of clean energy technologies. China now uses more coal than any other country and puts two new coal plants in service each week. Therefore, the international community must work together to give these countries and the rest of the world better, cleaner energy options while protecting American jobs and the economy.

Senator Voinovich has taken these domestic and international energy realities into account and introduced a bill in April 2009 to initiate an international effort to develop new clean energy technologies. The bill provides a framework and funding to aid with the development and rapid deployment of these technologies in both developed and developing countries alike.

The International Clean Energy Development Act (ICED) would direct the U.S. program office of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) to establish a committee focused on the commercialization of clean energy

technologies. Specifically, ICED would enable APP to strengthen its focus on the development and commercialization of clean energy technologies and provide a \$200 million per year investment from Fiscal Year 2010 to 2015 for that purpose. The Development and Commercialization Committee on Clean and Efficient Energy Technologies, formed by ICED, will review all existing APP action plans involving the research, development and commercialization of clean energy technologies. It will then single out and invest in

the acceleration of the plans which show the most promise. Within one year after the committee is established, the Secretary of State will be required to report to Congress on the actions taken by the committee and the results being realized by the selected projects.

Senator Voinovich's bill focuses the American legacy of entrepreneurship and innovation on finding a solution to climate change by creating incentives for the development and deployment of new clean energy technologies. It is currently awaiting review from the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Senator Voinovich has urged his colleagues to take quick action on this bill and continues to

spearhead efforts to craft policies that promote a clean and secure energy future.

Leading the Way for Safe and Secure Nuclear Power

As former Chairman and Ranking Member, and current member of the EPW Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich is committed to the safe and secure growth of nuclear power to help meet our nation's need for a clean, reliable, cost-effective and diverse energy supply. The subcommittee has oversight responsibilities on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which licenses and regulates all nuclear power plants in the United States.

In his call for a "Second Declaration of Independence" from foreign sources of energy, Senator Voinovich believes nuclear power can play an important role in harmonizing the country's need for energy independence, economic competitiveness and a healthy environment. As mentioned earlier, because Senator Voinovich believes finding a solution to climate change will require the rebirth of the U.S. nuclear industry, he was instrumental in expanding the EPW Committee's attention beyond routine oversight of the NRC to focus on the role of nuclear energy in the context of economic development and climate change policy. It is the senator's belief that nuclear power is not only important to reduce emissions for the nation, but it is important for stimulating job growth in Ohio.

Because Senator Voinovich understands that the resurgence of nuclear power will afford a huge opportunity for the expansion of manufacturing businesses and the creation of jobs, he believes it is essential to promote policies that stimulate the growth of the energy sector, and leverage American ingenuity, productivity and entrepreneurship.

As the senator likes to tell people, nuclear is a three-fer. Without it: 1) the United States will not be able to reach its goal of reducing carbon emissions; 2) will not be able to provide the base-load electricity growing countries will demand; and 3) will not be able to strengthen its manufacturing bases and create good-paying jobs.

"He remains a champion of nuclear power as a clean and efficient source of electricity, and an advocate for Ohio's coal industry... as the new Congress and administration work on global warming legislation." – Article, *Sen. George Voinovich will not run for re-election*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, January 12, 2009

"Thus, the encouraging scene last week: Voinovich, Gov. Ted Strickland and others gathered in Piketon to announce the creation of a southern Ohio energy park, a consortium led by Duke Energy and AREVA of France seeking to build a new-generation nuclear power plant at the site... Most compelling is the idea of expanding the presence of nuclear power in the country's portfolio for addressing global warming." - Editorial, *Nuclear spring*, Akron Beacon Journal, June 22, 2009

Senator Voinovich has encouraged the formation of partnerships among Ohio-based nuclear plant component manufacturing businesses and key international nuclear vendors, and continues to promote business expansion opportunities to create more high-tech manufacturing jobs in the state. He supports the United States Enrichment Corporation's plans for their American Centrifuge Project, and believes this project is essential for ensuring the global nuclear renaissance is led by American workers and American technology.

The senator also supports the efforts of the Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance – an alliance formed by Duke Energy, AREVA, USEC Inc., UniStar Nuclear Energy and the Southern Ohio Diversification to develop America's first clean energy park. The senator joined them at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Piketon site last summer to help make the exciting announcement about

the site's future. Projects like these will bring thousands of good-paying jobs to the state.

Additionally in June 2009, Senator Voinovich joined the Babcock & Wilcox Company (B&W) as they announced their plans to manufacture small modular nuclear reactors, which will result in millions of dollars in investments over the next three years. This program is expected to create several hundred new jobs at their Euclid and Barberton facilities in Ohio, and is exactly the direction Senator Voinovich believes we should be heading in as a state and country.

Over the past few years, Senator Voinovich has collaborated with Edison Welding Institute to deepen their involvement in the nuclear industry by leveraging their technical expertise with manufacturers throughout Ohio. The Nuclear Fabrication Consortium (NFC) was established to stimulate the re-establishment of a vibrant and responsive U.S. nuclear supply chain, particularly in Ohio. This resulted in the first meeting of the NFC in July of 2008, and today NFC is working to advance the mutual goal of furthering the nuclear renaissance in Ohio to maximize job growth.

The senator believes we must work to turn the pending shortage of skilled workforce to support the nuclear renaissance into an opportunity for economic growth. In addition to all the jobs associated with manufacturing the materials needed for construction, each new nuclear plant constructed will employ 2,000 people during construction with peak employment of 2,500. These jobs include skilled trades such as welders, pipefitters, masons, carpenters, millwrights, sheet metal workers, electricians, ironworkers, heavy equipment operators, insulators, engineers,



Senator Voinovich discusses the importance of nuclear energy with B&W Modular Nuclear Energy, LLC, President and Chief Executive Officer Christofer Mowry during a June 2009 news conference at the National Press Club in Washington D.C.

project managers and construction supervisors. The development of that workforce will require a collaborative effort from government, industry, labor unions and academic leaders.

Senator Voinovich has sponsored and co-chaired four highly successful, bipartisan nuclear renaissance roundtables, with each roundtable focusing on a key challenge area – financing new builds, supply chain infrastructure, skilled workforce and spent fuel management. Additionally, he participated in more than 24 committee hearings on nuclear safety – chairing seven of them.

In November 2009, the senator delivered a keynote speech at the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan's Workshop on Nuclear Energy entitled "U.S. and Japan: Key Partnership for Powering the World's Energy and Environment." He highlighted his vision for how Congress can ensure the revitalization of the nuclear industry. During his last year in the Senate, Senator Voinovich will continue to be a strong advocate in Congress for policies that encourage investments in the energy sector, particularly those that can leverage Ohio's existing manufacturing base, and he will fight to include nuclear energy as part of the larger solution to climate change.

Additionally, he will continue to promote a larger role for nuclear energy in U.S. energy, environmental and economic policies. Through his work on the Appropriations Committee in 2009, the senator has promoted modular reactors, recommended changes to the national nuclear waste fee policy, and helped the NRC purchase new work space. He will continue to work to secure vital educational funds for nuclear research at Ohio universities.



Taking the podium at a National Energy Security Act (NESA) press conference, Senator Voinovich discusses his bill aimed at boosting the nation's energy security and national security by reducing America's reliance on foreign oil.

[The National Energy Security Act](#)

In April 2009, Senators Voinovich and Byron Dorgan (D-ND) introduced the National Energy Security Act (NESA), legislation aimed at boosting the nation's energy security and national security by reducing America's reliance on foreign oil. The bill includes a provision for an additional \$50 billion of loan guarantee authorities to the Department of Energy (DOE) for all eligible clean energy technologies including nuclear power.

NESA would: create a national energy superhighway of electricity transmission; promote the development of plug-in electric and hybrid-electric vehicles and the infrastructure necessary to adopt these vehicles on a wide scale; increase development of all domestic energy resources; establish and fund a workforce training program for energy key sectors; and urge further action to reduce the geopolitical impact of oil dependence. The bill is currently awaiting review in the Senate Finance Committee.

HEALTH CARE

Working Harder and Smarter on Health Care

On Christmas Eve 2009, Senator Voinovich voted against Senate passage of the Democrats' health care reform bill (H.R. 3590). Unfortunately, the \$2 trillion bill that passed without a single Republican vote would raise taxes by more than \$500 billion, increase premiums for health insurance, place additional burdens on states, and threaten the health choices that millions of Americans currently enjoy.

As a former governor of Ohio, former chairman of the National Governors Association and past president of the National League of Cities, Senator Voinovich learned if you cannot afford what you have now, you cannot do more. The national debt has exceeded \$12 trillion, and at this rate will double in five years and triple in 10 – with deficits as far as the eye can see. The United States has amassed a staggering \$70 trillion in unfunded obligations over the next 75 years, or an estimated \$600,000 per American household.

Senator Voinovich took to the Senate floor four times in December 2009 prior to the health care vote to remind his colleagues and the American people about the fiscal realities of the health care bill and the disastrous toll it would take on the U.S. economy. At a time when Ohio's unemployment rate is at 10.8 percent, Senator Voinovich believes new health care legislation should strive to help Americans and the economy, not hurt. Instead, the Democrats propose raising taxes by more than half-a-trillion dollars. Paying for health care reform by placing additional financial burdens on American families and small businesses will only further impede economic recovery. Senator Voinovich does not believe the Democrats' bill is reform, and he certainly does not believe it is what the American people are asking for.

The senator is concerned that if this bill becomes law, Congress will be forced to spend tens of billions of dollars the United States doesn't have to keep the Medicaid safety net from failing completely in the not too distant future. Providing extra dollars to states would become an annual ritual in Congress just like fixing the Medicare physician payment formula is each year, which would probably result in more borrowing just to pay for it.

Specifically, Senator Voinovich voted against H.R. 3590 for several reasons:

- The bill cuts \$467 billion from Medicare to fund a new government program, even though Medicare will go bankrupt in 2017. Any savings achieved should be reinvested in these programs to ensure their future viability;
- The bill does not include a permanent fix to the Sustainable Growth Rate formula that reimburses doctors under Medicare. In fact it ignores the fact that we must fix the flawed formula all together. It is unrealistic to assume physicians would receive a 23 percent decrease in reimbursement levels beginning in 2011 with additional reductions in the future;
- The bill reduces payments to Medicare Advantage (MA) plans by \$120 billion. There are approximately 500,000 Ohioans in MA programs, and in January 2010, Medicare-eligible Ohio Public Employee Retirees will be enrolled in Humana's Medicare Advantage plan. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has said these seniors could see their added benefits (vision and dental) eliminated;

“Voinovich rightly played the realist. A mandatory expansion would not be cheap. Higher rolls would raise a state's share of the cost, particularly if the reform measures do not drastically control the rate of growth in health spending. All the more reason reformers should stick to their guns on measures that can control cost growth, such as the comparative effectiveness commission.” – Editorial, *Medicaid Mandate*, Akron Beacon Journal, December 21, 2009

- The bill has no meaningful medical liability reform. CBO estimates that enactment of medical liability reform would reduce health care costs by \$54 billion over 10 years;
- The bill would expand Medicaid even though physicians increasingly refuse to see Medicaid patients now – and states would bear \$25 billion in new costs. States are already having trouble meeting their obligations under the Medicaid program even with a temporary \$87 billion increase in the federal stimulus bill; and
- The bill directly and indirectly allows taxpayer dollars to be used to pay for abortions.

Congress is currently making decisions about the future of the health reform bill. The actions of Congress will have far-reaching consequences on the entire economy. In 2010, Senator Voinovich will work hard to ensure that any health care reform bill signed into law will be the result of a careful and deliberate debate – not a one-sided, partisan process.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Crafting America's Foreign and National Security Policies

Over the last decade, Senator Voinovich has been actively involved in crafting America's foreign and national security policies. He used his status as a five-year member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to conduct oversight of U.S. foreign policy in the most critical parts of the world, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, North Korea, the Balkans and former Captive Nations in Eastern Europe. Senator Voinovich played a leadership role in strengthening and enlarging the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Alliance and was the only member of Congress in the room at the 2002 NATO summit in Prague where membership was formally extended to Latvia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Senator Voinovich has also carried the banners of advancing U.N. reform, strengthening U.S. public diplomacy, promoting lasting peace and stability in Southeast Europe, and combating global anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of intolerance.

Extending Visa Waiver Privileges to Allies in the Global War on Terror

The continued expansion and improvement of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) is one of Senator Voinovich's top priorities. The VWP was established in 1986 to enable nationals of ally countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for up to 90 days without a visa. By 2007, 27 countries were participating in the VWP, but no new countries had been admitted to the program since 1999. Because of this, Senator Voinovich successfully enacted the Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act – legislation to enhance travel security and allow more countries to join the VWP. As a result, the program has become an important national security tool. Under Senator Voinovich's legislation, countries that participate in the VWP are required to share information on terrorists and criminals, report lost and stolen passports, and maintain high counterterrorism, border security, law enforcement and document security practices. Since his bill's passage, nine new countries – the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, South Korea and Greece – which were not eligible to participate in the VWP prior to Senator Voinovich's legislation have been admitted to the program. Nationals of these eight countries now enjoy the same benefits other U.S. allies enjoy as participants in the VWP. Namely, they are able to travel to the United States for tourism or business for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa.

Senator Voinovich continues to work to improve and expand VWP privileges to our allies around the world. When the new administration took office in 2009, he wrote to both Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to remind them of the importance of the VWP as both a national security tool and a public diplomacy tool. He reiterated the fact that the VWP has been one of the United States' most valuable instruments of public diplomacy and national security. Citizens from VWP countries who travel to the United States for tourism and business contribute billions of dollars to the U.S. economy and form life-long impressions of American society. VWP countries are also compelled to maintain high counterterrorism, border security, law enforcement, and document security practices as well as participate in valuable information sharing agreements with the United States law enforcement community. These measures strengthen U.S. alliances and security, and contribute to the favorable view of the United States globally.

Senator Voinovich regularly meets with officials from countries who would like to join the VWP, including Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski and Croatian Ambassador to the United States Grabar-Kitarovic, and advocates for their admission to the VWP.

Helle Dale of the *Washington Times* lauded the senator's leadership on visa waivers, saying that "by taking a fresh look at an issue that has been festering sore in relations between the United States and some of its new allies...[Voinovich] came up with a solution that will greatly benefit all."

Combating Anti-Semitism at Home and Abroad

Throughout his career in public service, Senator Voinovich has been dedicated to combating the resurgence of anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance at home and abroad. He has been proud to call himself a friend of Israel and the Jewish community in the United States and around the globe. He first became involved in Jewish issues as a local office holder in Cleveland. The senator has often said that his ethnic heritage is what motivates him to be so involved in the Jewish cause. His mother and father were both first generation Americans who taught him that one should never judge by race, religion, socio-economic status or color of skin.

In the Senate, Senator Voinovich has dedicated himself to combating anti-Semitism wherever it rears its ugly head, and has been recognized numerous times for his significant contributions to the Jewish community. In April 2009, a Jerusalem Stone that was quarried in Hebron for the Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel at the United States Naval Academy was presented to Senator Voinovich for his dedication to public service. Additionally, in September 2009 he was presented with the Beth Jacob Congregation Lifetime of Achievement Award for service to the United States, Ohio and the state of Israel.



Senator Voinovich speaks to Cleveland's Beth Jacob Congregation in September 2009 after receiving their Lifetime of Achievement Award for service to the United States, Ohio and the state of Israel.

Senator Voinovich has been actively involved in the work of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which works to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance throughout the world. The senator believes it is crucial that we prevent the rise of hate and discrimination in Europe and globally, especially hate toward Muslim and Jewish communities which fuels conflict around the world. In pursuing his goals, the senator is in regular contact with the State Department, the OSCE and the United Nations (U.N.).

In early-July 2009, Senator Voinovich traveled to Lithuania, Sarajevo, Latvia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of a bipartisan Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to attend the 18th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vilnius, Lithuania, where he supported and strengthened a resolution reaffirming the OSCE commitment to fighting anti-Semitism.

During the July trip, Senator Voinovich visited Latvia at the invitation of the Latvian President Valdis Zatlers, who visited the senator during his trip to the United States in May 2009. During that visit to D.C., President Zatlers awarded Senator Voinovich with the Order of the Three Stars – the nation's highest state honor – in recognition of his long support for Latvia. While in Latvia, the senator visited the Holocaust memorial site where the burning of the Riga Great Choral Synagogue occurred on July 4, 1941, and he laid a wreath at the memorial to honor the lives that were lost.



Latvian President Valdis Zatlers presents Senator Voinovich with the Order of the Three Stars in May 2009. Senator Voinovich played a key role in the expansion of NATO membership to include Latvia in 2002, and his strong support continues today.

In the Senate Fiscal Year 2010 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, Senator Voinovich secured language permitting the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation to apply for funding from the State Department (to be matched by foreign donors) for the purpose of preserving that key Holocaust site so future generations can see the consequences of extreme ideology, racism and the denial of human rights. Additionally, Senator Voinovich secured language in the Senate Fiscal Year 2010 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill supporting funding for the OSCE's extra-budgetary education and police training initiatives to combat anti-Semitism in Europe and Eurasia.

Senator Voinovich continues to work closely with the State Department's Bureau of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights as well as the Office to Combat Global Anti-Semitism, which was created as a result of legislation he authored in 2004. His leadership has been recognized by the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and many other

organizations.

Diligently Supporting NATO Enlargement

Since his time as mayor and throughout his career in the Senate, Senator Voinovich has fought for NATO enlargement as a way to advance our own national security as well as the security and stability of the world. He has continuously supported NATO because he believes it plays a crucial role in promoting peace, stability and freedom around the world. Senator Voinovich's commitment to serving his fellow man has not only benefited his direct constituents in Ohio, but has transcended international borders.

As a then-member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Voinovich played a key role in the expansion of NATO membership to include Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia – countries who are now some of the United States' strongest allies in the War on Terror as well as in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, one of the senator's proudest moments was in November 2002 when he joined President Bush's official U.S. delegation at the NATO summit in Prague where membership was formally extended to those seven countries. Senator Voinovich was also a co-sponsor of the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007, which permitted Ukraine and Georgia to receive aid under the NATO Partnership Act of 1994.

In 2008 Senator Voinovich co-sponsored the NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) Endorsement Act and sent a letter to then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, encouraging her to use influence to convince NATO members to offer MAP status to Ukraine and Georgia. The NATO Membership Action Plan was launched in April 1999 to assist countries in preparations for possible NATO membership by providing advice, assistance and practical support on all aspects of membership requirements. NATO has identified four main categories of cooperation and assistance through MAP. These include: 1) assistance in the development of a national program that covers political, economic, defense, resource security, and legal requirements for membership; 2) NATO experts to provide focused and candid feedback and political and technical advice to the governments; 3) organizational structure to assist in the coordination of defense and security assistance received from NATO

member states and other allies; and 4) assistance in the construction of an individual approach to defense planning to include force, personnel and capability reforms.

Each participant is free to choose the elements of MAP best suited to their own national priorities and circumstances. MAP participation does not guarantee future membership, but provides a guide for those seeking membership.

In May 2008, Senator Voinovich introduced a resolution congratulating Albania and Croatia on their invitation to begin accession talks with NATO and expressing support for a speedy ratification process. Originally there were 12 members of NATO – today there are 26. Senator Voinovich has vowed to continue his fight to ensure that the door to NATO remains open for all of the captive nations.

In March 2009, Senator Voinovich traveled to Brussels, where he attended a conference sponsored by the German Marshall Fund and met with U.S. Ambassador to NATO Kurt Volker, as well as leaders from the Baltic States and Southeast Europe. The senator's bilateral meetings with these leaders included discussions on expansion of the NATO alliance, the geopolitical ramifications of a resurgent Russia, climate change and global energy security.



Senator Voinovich speaks on a panel at the 2009 Brussels Forum sponsored by the German Marshall Fund. The discussion focused on "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain," and the senator was joined by Sweden's Foreign Affairs Minister, The Honorable Carl Bildt; Germany's Minister of the Interior, The Honorable Wolfgang Schauble; and Latvian President Valdis Zatlers.

In April 2009, Senator Voinovich sponsored a resolution celebrating the 60th anniversary of NATO. And, during his OSCE trip to Latvia and Lithuania in July 2009, Senator Voinovich thanked the political leadership of both countries for their commitment and sacrifice of troops and material towards NATO's efforts in Afghanistan.

[Ties to Southeast Europe](#)

Since his early days as an elected official, Senator Voinovich has made it a priority to keep in touch with the nationality and ethnic groups that make up several important communities in the state. Throughout his career in public service, he has kept these groups in mind, from the Ohio statehouse, to the U.S. Capitol and every stop in between. The senator often recalls celebrating the independence days of captive nations with the nationality groups at City Hall when he was mayor of Cleveland. He would raise the national flags of countries, light candles and pray for those behind the iron curtain and under the rule of communism.

As governor, he began the department of multicultural relations, which gave nationality groups cabinet level representation in his administration. With the Berlin Wall down and curtain torn, he strived to offer support to the new democracies, and worked to integrate them into the world by opening trade doors with the Ohio business community.

Because of his own Serbian and Slovenian background and the importance of ethnic groups to Ohio, Senator Voinovich continues to stay active and engaged in these issues, and he has become the Senate's leading expert

“Senator Voinovich has been always available for us and he has supported our country in many fields.” - Boris Tadic, President of Serbia, Article, Serbia not to give up defense of sovereignty, Blic Online, September 9, 2009

on Southeast European affairs. When he attended the NATO summit in Prague in 2002, he joined with nationality groups in his hometown of Cleveland via video conference to celebrate the admittance of seven young democracies into the alliance.

The senator is also very proud of and continues to support the partnership between the Serbian military and the Ohio National Guard.

As a former five-year member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the senator recognizes that stability in Southeast Europe can influence the overall peace and stability of the broader

region, and he has been personally active in many bids for accession by former Soviet Union countries. As 2010 is Senator Voinovich’s last year in office, he hopes to pass the baton on to Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Chairman of the European Affairs Subcommittee, thereby maintaining the strong ties Senator Voinovich has been largely responsible for building between the United States and Southeastern Europe.

To this day, Senator Voinovich and his wife Janet are members of more than 20 different nationality groups and fraternal organizations and are regulars at ethnic parades, festivals and celebrations.

Funding Defense Priorities

Senator Voinovich secured \$26 million for Ohio military construction projects which passed in the Fiscal Year 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. In his role as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations’ Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Senator Voinovich has worked diligently to help secure necessary funds to support our men and women in uniform, and he looks forward to supporting these priorities during his last year in office.

Ohio Military Construction Projects in the Continuing Resolution: \$26 million total

Air Force

- **Runway Replacement: \$10.6 million** to replace two taxiways at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.
- **Multi-Use Instructional and Training Facility: \$2 million** to meet the training and practice requirements of the various organizations at the Toledo Express Airport.

Army

- **Air National Guard: \$11.4 million** to establish a Rapid Engineer Deployment Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) Squadron at the Mansfield Lahm Airport to fully train, maintain weapons and achieve the readiness required to perform missions.

Army National Guard

- **New Joint Operations Center: \$2 million** to construct a new Joint Operations Center (JOC) at the Beightler Armory to replace the current JOC that was built in 1965. The new JOC will provide the space, security and communications ability needed to enhance readiness in the post-9/11 environment.

PRESERVING THE GREAT LAKES

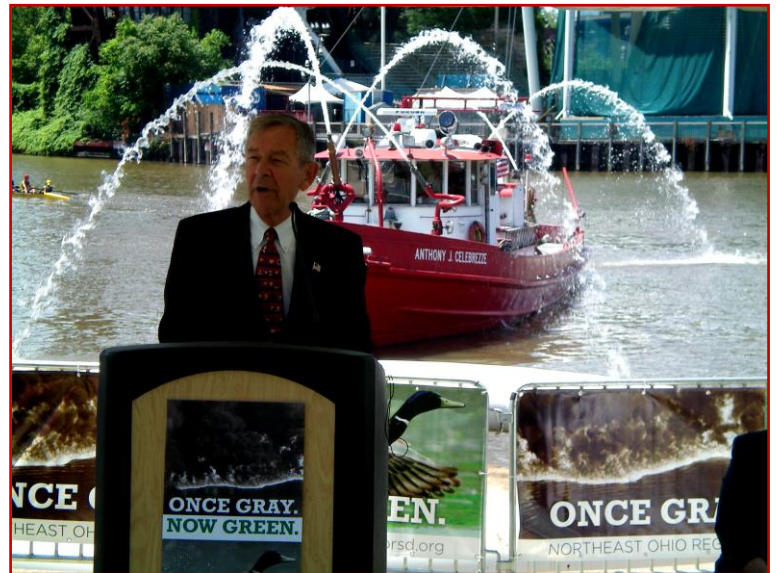
[Dedicating Efforts to Clean Up the Great Lakes](#)

Senator Voinovich has a decades-long history of support for the Great Lakes, making a commitment to stop the deterioration of the Lakes and waging what he calls the “Second Battle of Lake Erie” – the battle to reclaim and restore Ohio’s Great Lake. Since coming to the Senate in 1999, he has supported numerous pieces of legislation aimed at preserving and restoring the Great Lakes, including bills to ban oil and gas drilling in the Lakes, protect the Lakes from invasive species like the Asian carp, fight “dead zones” that threaten the Lakes’ vibrant plant and animal life, and fund vital cleanup of contaminated sediments. In 2007, Senator Voinovich was named co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force with Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), his longtime friend. The bipartisan group – part of the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition – seeks to protect the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes region. It works in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to protect and enhance the region’s unique natural resources and economy.

[Advancing Great Lakes Restoration Efforts](#)

As co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, Senator Voinovich continued to work with the Great Lakes delegation to advance restoration efforts in this critical region during the 111th Congress. The bipartisan Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2009, which was introduced by Senators Voinovich and Levin in April 2009, aims to clean up contaminated expanses in the Great Lakes known as Areas of Concern (AOC), expanding on legislation passed seven years ago and increasing the level of funding for cleanup of contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes and for research into new technologies for sediment cleanup. It was passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee in July 2009.

The original Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002 contributed significantly to the effort to clean up AOCs in the Great Lakes and has proven to be one of the best things done to protect the Great Lakes. So far, nearly 500,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment has been eliminated in the Ashtabula River and similar processes have begun for Ottawa and Maumee Rivers. This material has been safely removed from riverbeds so that it no longer poses a threat to human health or wildlife. Senator Voinovich is committed to getting this program reauthorized at a higher funding level in 2010 because it is showing such great results. The senator firmly believes the Great Lakes Legacy program is a vital piece of the comprehensive strategy absolutely necessary to protect the Great Lakes for generations to come. He will continue in 2010 to complete legislative activity on this bill.



Senator Voinovich, a co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, spoke at “The Year of the River” event in Cleveland to acknowledge the organizations and individuals responsible for 40 years of clean water progress on the Cuyahoga River.

[Protecting the Great Lakes from Invasive Species](#)

In the first half of the 111th Congress, Senator Voinovich remained committed to protecting the Great Lakes from all invasive species. In July 2009, he co-sponsored the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act to lower the risk of Asian carp being intentionally introduced into the Great Lakes. Asian carp – including the bighead species – threaten native fish by quickly consuming large quantities of phytoplankton, which is critical to the stability of the ecosystem. Originally, Asian carp were introduced to the United States as a management tool for

aquaculture farms and sewage treatment facilities. According to reports, the carp made their way north to the Illinois River after escaping from fish farms during massive flooding along the Mississippi River more than 10 years ago. Asian carp can grow to an average of four feet in length, weigh up to 60 pounds, and can consume up to 40 percent of their body weight in plankton per day.

“Even near the climax of his career, Voinovich remains steadfast in his support, urging the government to do more to keep the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

Nowhere can a more reliable supporter of this watershed be found than Sen. Voinovich. He deserves the title of Honorable.” –

Opinion, Jeffrey L. Frischkorn,
Outdoors: Hats off to these outdoors supporters,
Willoughby News Herald,
December 29, 2009

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has published rules designating the black, silver and large-scale silver carp as injurious, but has not yet acted on bighead carp. Senator Voinovich’s legislation would list bighead carp as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act and ensure that the species cannot be imported into the United States or sold across state lines without a permit.

The FWS received a petition in 2002 – which Senator Voinovich strongly supported – asking the FWS Director to list three species of Asian carp under the Lacey Act. The Great Lakes Task Force also sent two letters urging the FWS to administratively list the carp under the Lacey Act.

Additionally, Senator Voinovich was pleased to see that the \$4 million he requested to combat invasive species in the Great Lakes was secured in the 2009 Interior Appropriations Bill, which was signed into law in October 2009.

Senator Voinovich also helped secure more than \$6 million for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete construction of Barrier I and to begin the Interbasin Study on invasive species. In 2010, he will continue to make sure the Army Corps of Engineers has the necessary authority and funding and will continue to call on the administration to take several more aggressive steps to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.

[Increasing Protection of Great Lakes Beaches](#)

In April 2009, Senator Voinovich, along with Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), introduced a bill reauthorizing the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act, also known as the Beach Protection Act of 2009. The legislation, which was passed out of the EPW Committee in June 2009, would increase funding to states to protect water quality, require tough new beach water quality testing, and increase public notification standards so beachgoers are better informed about the safety of their beaches. The bill will next move to the full Senate for consideration.

This legislation increases grants to states, including Great Lakes states like Ohio, for the development and implementation of programs focused on remediating contamination sources. The Great Lakes, which account for about 10 percent of our nation’s beaches, are currently not covered under the BEACH Act.

“Environmental groups are applauding Voinovich’s efforts along with its co-sponsor, Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, D-New Jersey. ‘Beachgoers need to know if the water is safe before diving in, not one or even two days after they swim. This bill requires faster testing at beaches for bacterial contamination that can make swimmers sick,’ said Nancy Stoner, the co-director of the water program for the Natural Resources Defense Council.” – Article, Proposed act would mean real-time data about beach bacteria,
Willoughby News Herald,
June 22, 2009

Traditionally, the BEACH Act has only allowed grants for beach monitoring and public notification programs. The frequency of water quality monitoring has increased at Great Lakes beaches since the passage of the BEACH Act, helping states and localities identify the scope of contamination. However, in most cases, the underlying causes of contamination remain unknown and unaddressed because state and local officials do not have the funds to investigate the source of the contamination or take action to mitigate the problem.

Under the re-introduced BEACH Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to work with states to ensure they use the most advanced science to sample and test beach waters. The law also helps states set up comprehensive monitoring and notification programs in order to provide up-to-date information on the condition of all public beaches.



During the 31st Annual Governor's Fish Ohio Day celebration, Senator Voinovich shows off his prize catch as Mrs. Janet Voinovich looks on.

Ensuring Funding for the Great Lakes

Senator Voinovich helped secure vital support for restoring the Great Lakes through the appropriations process in 2009. The Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations Conference Report included \$475 million requested by Senator Voinovich for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which supported the president's budget request and will be used for the restoration and environmental remediation of the Great Lakes region. Additionally, Senator Voinovich secured nearly \$6 million in funding for the Great Lakes in the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Conference Report, including:

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Program: \$2,471,000

This program enables the Army Corps of Engineers to utilize its planning, design and construction expertise for projects to protect and restore the Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem. The Great Lakes sustain a nationally and internationally significant fishery which has been degraded by habitat losses, contamination and invasive species. Under this program, the Army Corps of Engineers will coordinate with federal, state and local agencies and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to

plan, implement and evaluate projects supporting the restoration of the fishery, ecosystem and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes.

Technical Assistance to Remedial Action Plans Committees: \$3,407,000

Funding would be used to continue planning towards the remediation and full clean-up of AOCs in the Great Lakes, ultimately improving ecosystems and quality of life in the Great Lakes basin.

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT

The Workforce Senator

As a public official who has served at nearly every level of government, Senator Voinovich understands the critical importance of improving the functioning of our government to ensure the efficient delivery of intended services to the taxpayer. Far too often, government programs are dysfunctional, resulting in the waste of resources that could be better used for higher priority programs or cutting the deficit. That is why he has dedicated himself to improving government management and ensuring we have the right people with the right resources in the right place at the right time to get the job done. The most significant reforms to the federal civil service in 30 years were enacted under Senator Voinovich's leadership as Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia (OGM). In fact, according to a recent employee satisfaction survey, the top three federal agencies listed as the best places to work – the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Government Accountability Office (GAO), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – are the agencies that Senator Voinovich worked to provide personnel flexibilities for.

Senator Voinovich has held more than 50 hearings on federal workforce issues since he came to the Senate and authored 17 pieces of legislation to transform federal government management. To recognize his extraordinary efforts on behalf of civil service reform, the senator received *The Private Sector Council Leadership Award*. Max Stier, President of the Nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, stated that “he takes his public service role seriously and understands where he can make the biggest difference for the American people.”

Attracting a Top-Notch Federal Workforce

The senator has worked on a bipartisan basis to enact several major reforms for both the government as a whole and for individual agencies; however, he recognizes that enacting legislation is only the first step in affecting reform. He has made vigorous oversight of these reforms a priority to ensure federal agencies are using the flexibilities to recruit and retain a highly-skilled, effective workforce, and he has often said that federal agencies must employ the right people in order to effectively respond to the government's current and emerging challenges.

“Since taking office in 1999, Voinovich has been the architect of many significant federal reform bills and has served as a watchdog for the interests of government employees during both Democratic and Republican administrations...Voinovich has been involved in virtually every major civil service issue on Capitol Hill during the past decade.” - Article, Senate champion of federal employees to retire in 2010, Government Executive, January 12, 2009

During the first half of the 111th Congress, Senator Voinovich continued his commitment to addressing the future workforce needs of the federal government with a comprehensive oversight agenda. In March 2009, Senator Voinovich joined Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) in introducing the Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act of 2009 to streamline the federal recruitment and hiring process. Senator Voinovich understands that to be an employer of choice, the government must understand what the competition is doing and adapt to the changing environment. We must ensure our processes result in hiring the right person with the right skills and knowledge to get the job done. The OGM Subcommittee held a hearing in May 2009 to examine efforts by federal agencies to recruit highly qualified candidates for public service in the current job market. Witnesses testified about the need to attract the right candidates to fill critical skills gaps that will occur as a large portion of the federal workforce nears retirement. They also testified that unnecessarily complicated applications and lengthy waiting times may discourage qualified applicants from seeking a career in public service.

Senator Voinovich's legislation brings together common sense solutions to a longstanding, government-wide management challenge, requiring agencies to develop strategic workforce plans, post clear job announcements in plain writing, no longer requiring "knowledge, skills and abilities" essays – allowing applicants to submit resumes and cover letters, and providing timely notification of application status. The bill was passed out of committee in July 2009 and Senator Voinovich is committed to seeing it passed in 2010.

Allowing Greater Workplace Flexibility for Federal Workers

Just as other aspects of federal employees' lives have been transformed by technology, Senator Voinovich understands that employers need to acknowledge that the next-generation workforce will have different expectations of what it means to go to work. That is why he and Senator Akaka introduced the Telework Enhancement Act in March 2009, a bill to allow greater workplace flexibility for federal workers and agencies. This legislation will require federal agencies to better integrate telework into their human capital planning, help establish a level playing field for employees who voluntarily elect to telework, and improve program accountability. It was approved by voice vote during a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) markup in May 2009, and Senator Voinovich is hopeful that some version of the bill to be enacted during 2010.

Strengthening the Federal Workforce Community

Also in the first half of the 111th Congress, Senator Voinovich introduced a bill to strengthen Federal Executive Boards (FEBs), specifically providing for the establishment, administration and funding of FEBs. FEBs were originally established by President Kennedy in 1961 to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of federal agencies. However, FEBs do not have a congressional charter, and they rely on voluntary contributions from their member agencies for funding. Therefore, in 2007 the GAO recommended that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) develop a proposal to address the uncertainty of funding sources for FEBs. Based on the GAO's recommendation, Senator Voinovich's bill addresses that concern. Specifically, the bill calls on the director of OPM to consult with federal agencies to determine where to establish FEBs and create staffing policies for FEBs, as well as communications policies, performance standards and accountability initiatives for FEBs. It also creates a fund for FEB operations administered by OPM and consists of contributions from each agency participating in FEBs to fund staff and operations. It was unanimously approved by the Senate in November 2009. Senator Voinovich plans to work with his colleagues to ensure swift House passage of the bill in 2010.



Senator Voinovich discusses the importance of his government reform work at a news conference in early 2009. The senator has been one of the most outspoken legislative advocates for major civil service reform in light of a possible federal retirement wave. "I've never seen an organization as screwed up as the federal government," he said in 2001. "The civil service has been ignored."

Reforming the Federal Security Clearance Process

Since coming to the Senate, Senator Voinovich has focused his attention on improving the performance of federal programs. He has remained particularly committed to reforming the federal security clearance process, which has been on the GAO high-risk list since 2005. Since that time, the OGM Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Voinovich until 2007 and now chaired by Senator Akaka, has held a series of oversight hearings on the serious shortfalls of the federal government's ability to effectively and efficiently issue security clearances to federal employees and contractors. As a result of this oversight and the hard work of many government

employees, the tremendous backlog of security clearance investigations has all but vanished, and today clearance determinations are made much more quickly. However, the GAO continues to note problems with the process.

While some progress has been made in the past few years to decrease the amount of time it takes to obtain a security clearance, more improvement is needed to fully reform the security clearance process. The cumbersome process delays the timely hire of highly-skilled individuals for sensitive positions within the federal government, hampering our national security agencies' capacity to meet their heightened missions. In an effort to address those and other concerns over the personnel clearance process, and help sustain the momentum for reforming and modernizing the security clearance process, Senators Voinovich and Akaka introduced the Security Clearance Modernization and Reporting Act in December 2009. The legislation was referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence, and Senator Voinovich will work to see its passage in 2010. He remains committed to fixing this broken process which has serious implications for the federal government's national security workforce's ability to get the job done.

Improving Management of the Department of Homeland Security

The signing of the Homeland Security Act on November 25, 2002, initiated the federal government's largest restructuring since the creation of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) in 1947. In order to address the significant challenges associated with integrating the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – which has become the third largest cabinet agency – Senator Voinovich has engaged in vigorous oversight of the department, and has worked to continue to ensure DHS has the proper tools to make necessary improvements in its operations. At the start of the 110th Congress, he reintroduced the Effective Homeland Security Management Act and was successful in enacting key provisions of this legislation, including establishing a chief management officer at DHS, as part of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.



During an Appropriations Committee hearing in Washington D.C., Senator Voinovich discusses the spending of federal monies by the Department of Homeland Security with Secretary Janet Napolitano.

However, in 2003, the GAO added implementing and transforming DHS to its high-risk list of programs susceptible to waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement. It remained on the list in 2009, so Senator Voinovich focused his efforts on improving department management. He lead a hearing in December 2009 to review a GAO report examining DHS' efforts towards management integration, and he plans to lead a hearing in 2010 that examines DHS' budget request for management and the department's integrated management plan.

Improving the Effectiveness and Performance of Federal Grants

In 2009 Senator Voinovich sponsored a bill to streamline the federal grant process. This legislation, known as the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act, built upon original legislation he authored in 1999 which was the catalyst for important strides in improving the distribution, effectiveness and performance of federal grants. While some progress has been made to detangle the grants process, Senator Voinovich is aware that his work is not finished.

“Voinovich cares deeply about the intricacies of government, and when he served on a Senate panel with oversight for the District of Columbia, he showed extraordinary interest in the minutia of D.C.’s bureaucracy.” –

Article, Sen. George Voinovich will not run for re-election, Cleveland Plain Dealer, January 12, 2009

The GAO estimates that 26 federal entities distribute more than \$400 billion in federal grants each year through about 1,000 different federal grant programs. Since the passage of Senator Voinovich’s original bill to streamline these programs in 1999, the grant process has been improved. In 2006 however, the GAO outlined additional inconsistencies, showing that federal agencies continue to use different application, reporting and payment systems, and not all federal grants can be applied for using the Grants.gov Web site. Senator Voinovich’s bill addresses these issues in a number of ways, by requiring the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to

maintain a public Web site that serves as a central point of information and access for applicants, and requiring director of OMB to report to Congress within nine months of enactment on progress made in implementing the legislation. Similar versions of the bill were passed by the Senate and House in 2009, and Senator Voinovich plans to work with his colleagues to resolve the differences between these bills in 2010.

Leading the Fight for Passport Reform

In 2004, the 9/11 Commission recommended that everyone, including Americans, carry passports or other documents enabling their identities to be securely verified when they enter the United States. As a result, the Departments of State and Homeland Security implemented the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) to require that everyone entering the United States provide a passport or other WHTI-compliant document. This policy went into effect on June 1, 2009. As a senior member of HSGAC, Senator Voinovich has responsibility for overseeing the WHTI process, and as a representative of a border state, he also has a vested interest in seeing its successful transition.

One WHTI-compliant document – the passport card – is a credit card-size, machine readable card that the State Department issues to allow entry into the United States at land and sea ports. Although passport cards will be valid for 10 years, U.S. citizens are not currently allowed to use them for any type of international air travel. In January 2009, Senator Voinovich introduced legislation that would allow passport cards to serve as proof of identity and citizenship when Americans enter the United States through air ports of entry from other Western Hemisphere countries. This legislation, known as the Passport Card Travel Enhancement Act of 2009, was modified and enacted as part of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010. Under that law, the State Department must conduct a pilot project testing the use of passport cards for air travel between the United States and Canada. In 2010, Senator Voinovich will continue to work with DHS to ensure that WHTI continues to be implemented in a smooth, efficient and logical way.

Addressing Foreign Language Capabilities

In the first half of the 111th Congress, Senator Voinovich continued his commitment to improving foreign language capabilities at the State Department and throughout the federal government, commissioning a number of reports and leading hearings to identify the best practices to ensure the federal government has the foreign language capacity needed to remain competitive in the global economy. In September 2009, Senator Voinovich participated in an OGM Subcommittee hearing titled, “A Review of U.S. Diplomatic Readiness: Addressing the Staffing and Foreign Language Challenges Facing the Foreign Service.” The hearing was one of the senator’s most recent efforts to examine the foreign language capacity of our Foreign Service Officers, including those serving at hardship posts. The hearing coincided with the release of two GAO reports requested by Senator Voinovich. The reports revealed significantly higher vacancy rates at posts with greater hardship differentials, resulting in many positions being filled by officers who did not meet the criteria for the position. The reports also discussed major language gaps in “superhard” languages, such as Arabic and Chinese. In response to the

hearing and reports, the State Department established an inter-bureau language working group to create a plan to address the GAO's recommendations.

In December 2009, Senator Voinovich lead a hearing on staffing challenges at the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, to discuss the challenge of establishing a secure environment for the conduct of diplomacy in an increasingly dangerous world. Senator Voinovich also reminded the OGM Subcommittee of the need to continue its efforts with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to enact a permanent solution to the overseas locality pay fix, and he continues to work with Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to provide permanent authorization for the State Department to address the overseas locality pay inequity.

Improving the Department of Defense's Supply Chain to Better Serve the Warfighter

In 2009, Senator Voinovich continued his comprehensive review of DOD supply chain management, aspects of which have appeared on the GAO high-risk list since 1990. The goal of effective supply chain management is to deliver the right items to the right place at the right time for the warfighter. Since the GAO's inclusion of supply chain management on the GAO high-risk list, Senator Voinovich has participated in three hearings related to this issue, and will continue to lead the committee's examination of this topic in 2010.



During a visit to Iraq, Sen. Voinovich discusses the warfighter's needs and management of the Department of Defense supply chain with a U.S. Army representative.

There are two principles that guide the senator's interest and involvement in improving DOD supply chain management: 1) with more than \$150 billion dedicated to the department's supply chain, DOD must become a better steward of the taxpayer dollars. Current DOD supply chain initiatives do not make the grade; and 2) inefficient, ineffective and redundant steps in the supply chain have a direct impact on American service members by depriving troops in harm's way of vital equipment.

In June 2008, DOD issued a Logistics Roadmap aimed at improving asset tracking, demand forecasting and material distribution. This plan builds on a 2005 Supply Chain Management Improvement Plan generated by DOD at Senator Voinovich's request. According to a January 2009 GAO report however, this newest plan lacks critical features, including adequate performance metrics capable of measuring progress being made towards departmental goals. In October 2009, Senators Voinovich and Akaka sent a letter to Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn in an effort to continue to focus DOD's attention on generating an effective supply chain management strategy and dedicating adequate resources and leadership focus on this important issue. Both senators intend to hold the subcommittee's fourth hearing on DOD supply chain management in spring 2010. As the United States begins to increase troop levels in Afghanistan while reducing its military presence in Iraq, effective and efficient supply chain management will be as vital as ever. Senator Voinovich will continue his work to ensure the U.S. military develops a top-notch defense logistics network.

SERVING OHIO

First and Foremost – Ohio Priorities

Senator Voinovich refers to Janet, his wife of 47 years, as his first great love and the state of Ohio as his second. Born and raised in Cleveland, he still lives in the same house he and Janet purchased in 1972, where they raised their children. When Congress is not in session, he takes every opportunity to return to Ohio and meet with the people he serves. George Voinovich consistently represents common sense, traditional Ohio values and fights for the Buckeye State's economy. Whether it was discussing nuclear job creation at the Babcock & Wilcox facility in Euclid, getting a project update and weighing in on the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati, touring the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, or attending the 31st Annual Governor's Fish Ohio Day in Port Clinton, Senator Voinovich maintained a busy schedule in 2009. He crisscrossed Ohio to be accessible to the people he serves, to learn firsthand what is on their minds and to share with them what he is accomplishing on their behalf in the Senate.

Helping Ohioans Solve Problems

In the 111th Congress, Senator Voinovich's experienced casework staff opened more than 4,800 cases and brought a successful close to 83 percent of them. The casework office processed over 7,000 pieces of mail and fielded countless phone calls. Following are excerpts from letters of thanks the senator received:

- "We cannot thank you enough for the part you played in honoring our dad with his military awards... Words cannot quite express our gratitude. Thank you so much and may God bless you." *JS, Mansfield, Ohio*
- "Thank you for resolving my Medicare premium problems. You and your staff are very capable... I doubt that I would not have received the overpayment refund without your intervention. At one point, Social Security said they never refund overpayments." *JF, Plain City, Ohio*
- "My brother just learned that his lump sum disability payment has been received at his bank. I want to sincerely THANK YOU for your assistance in this matter. It was a lengthy process and your help will not be forgotten." *CM, Akron, Ohio*
- "I would like to thank you for your help on my disability case. I received word that my case did not need to go to trial. I was approved without all of that. I believe that without your help I would not have been approved as soon as I was. America needs more people like you in the Senate and Congress that look out for the small people." *MF, Fort Jennings, Ohio*



Senator Voinovich talks to constituents about the needs of Ohioans while touring the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

- “I am no longer under obligation for an overpayment. This letter comes to me as a direct result of your hard work and I want you to know that I appreciate that you not only worked for my rights as a citizen but you respected me as a person and believed what I was telling you. I think your belief in the goodness of human nature is refreshing and certainly went a long way in restoring my belief in the process of the American system. Your help and support in this matter was instrumental in getting this problem resolved and I wish to thank you.” *CO, Franklin, Ohio*
- “...I would like to thank you and your staff for your help on my visa applications...I was extremely impressed that your staff immediately returned my call and a few days later sent me a letter from the Embassy with the results of your inquiry. That dedication says a great deal about the high quality of your staff and your efforts to serve your constituents. If all of our leaders were as dedicated as you, we would truly be the ‘city on a hill’ to quote President Reagan. Thank you again for your assistance and your decades of public service.” *ZC, Toledo, Ohio*
- “...Thank you so much for your help in getting my son back to the states! We appreciate it more than words can say. He is now at Walter Reed getting the care he needs. The doctors say given his injuries he is doing amazingly well. Everyone involved with this was phenomenal in making this happen. Thank you again.” *BL, Xenia, Ohio*

Helping Fund Projects and Create Jobs

Additionally, Senator Voinovich worked hard during the first half of the 111th Congress to guide Ohioans through the arduous task of securing federal discretionary grants for worthwhile projects. In 2009, the senator drafted more than 286 letters of support and responded to over 650 requests for grant information. Thanks to his help, Ohioans secured more than \$225 million in federal grants. Some of the highlights include:

- \$1 million to the city of Gahanna from EPA’s Brownfield Revolving Fund Loan and Assessment Grants Program to establish a long-term fund to remediate hazardous substance and petroleum contaminated brownfields throughout the city.
- \$1.5 million for the Ohio Department of Development, along with its coalition partner, the Butler County Port Authority, for funding in EPA’s Hazardous Substance Revolving Loan Fund program, which will specifically help spur redevelopment of blighted commercial and industrial properties in the city of Middletown.
- \$1.4 million to the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Senator Voinovich led the Ohio delegation in sending the letter to President Obama asking him to approve the August 2007 federal disaster declaration, which triggered FEMA assistance, including public assistance.
- \$317,000 to Wilberforce and Central State Universities in Wilberforce from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to expand the nuclear engineering program from an undergraduate minor to an undergraduate major the universities, which share a program. Senator Voinovich has been the champion for the Nuclear Energy Workforce Training Initiative in the Senate and was instrumental in securing \$15 million to the NRC for this cause.
- \$250,000 to Columbiana County from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to construct a new wastewater collection system and provide first-time public sewer service.

“Strong partnerships with elected officials like Senator Voinovich enhance our ability to attract and retain jobs in Pickaway County.” - Article, Pickaway County secures \$2 million for Pickaway East-West Connector, Chillicothe Gazette, August 4, 2009

Reducing the Backlog of Social Security Disability Claims

The Social Security Administration (SSA) faces the considerable challenge of processing a backlog of disability insurance claims as new receipts continue to grow. With backlogs above the national average in Ohio, Senator Voinovich has continued to work with SSA Commissioner Michael Astrue and his colleagues in Congress to improve service to disability claimants by providing timely hearings and decisions.

In May 2007, Senator Voinovich held a roundtable to discuss the backlog of claims with Commissioner Astrue and has worked to ensure SSA has the resources necessary to solve its longstanding management challenges, including hiring a sufficient number of administrative law judges and support staff to process claims. On SSA's behalf, Senator Voinovich pressed the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to provide SSA an updated Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Register, a list from which prospective ALJs are selected. Maintaining an up-to-date ALJ Register is critical to enable SSA to improve the number and productivity of SSA's ALJ corps.

In addition, Senator Voinovich has also successfully worked to increase resources dedicated to reducing the disability backlog in Ohio. In June 2010, SSA will open a new hearing office in Toledo. The following month, another hearing office will begin operations in Akron. Together, these offices will bring 22 additional ALJs to Ohio dedicated to reducing the state's disability backlog. Though much work remains in reducing the social security disability claim backlog, Senator Voinovich is proud to be part of efforts that have resulted in the first decrease in the backlog in more than a decade. The senator will continue to work with SSA to achieve further reductions in 2010.



Senator Voinovich holds an umbrella as he speaks to visiting Ohio students on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. The senator especially enjoys speaking with students eager to learn about the political process.

Communicating with Constituents

Senator Voinovich has always placed the needs of Ohioans above all else, and has always considered those needs when making decisions. In fact, during the first half of the 111th Congress, Senator Voinovich and his staff responded to more than 93,000 pieces of correspondence and countless phone calls from Ohioans regarding policy issues. The senator's staff also fulfilled 385 requests for American flags and arranged tours of the U.S. Capitol for nearly one thousand Ohio groups.

Connecting with Communities

Senator Voinovich's five offices throughout the state of Ohio have continued to play a vital role in community outreach and have helped him stay in touch with the concerns of Ohioans when he is at work in Washington. In the first half of the 111th Congress, the senator stayed connected with Ohioans through his seven district representatives, who held meetings with constituents, attended local events on behalf of the senator and held office hours in each of Ohio's 88 counties at least once a year. These open door office hours continue to provide constituents a unique opportunity to talk in person with a representative who will take their concerns directly back to the senator.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Recognition for Senator Voinovich's Work in the 111th Congress

Economic Development

- Special recognition from The Ohio Landscape Association presented in grateful appreciation of his hard work, outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to integrity in his support of the landscape industry, small businesses, and the people of Ohio. July 2009

Foreign Affairs, Defense and Homeland Security

- The Jerusalem Stone quarried in Hebron for the Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel at the United States Naval Academy presented to Senator Voinovich for his dedication to public service. April 2009
- Latvian President Valdis Zatlers presented the senator with the Order of the Three Stars, an award to thank him for his outstanding civil merit in the service of Latvia. The Order of the Three Stars is Latvia's highest state honor. May 2009
- The Beth Jacob Congregation Lifetime of Achievement Award for his service to the United States, the state of Ohio and the state of Israel. September 2009

Public Service, Civic and Charitable

- A Leadership Award plaque for his outstanding legislative leadership for authoring S.1265, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The plaque was presented by Associated General Contractors of America; Caterpillar Inc.; Clean Air Task Force; Cummins Inc.; Diesel Technology Forum; Emissions Control Technology Association; Environmental Defense Fund; National Association of Clean Air Agencies; and the Union of Concerned Scientist. October 2009
- A special recognition award from the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio, to honor his longstanding commitment to the citizens of the state of Ohio, for his key leadership role on important public health and policy issues impacting the practice of medicine. It honored his advocacy efforts on behalf of patients, his commitment to members of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio, his distinguished legislative career, and his stalwart approach to preserving the right to high quality and affordable health care. April 2009
- The Montgomery County Transportation Improvement District presented Senator Voinovich with a proclamation to show their gratitude for his support of the Austin Interchange project. They received \$12.6 million in federal funds for the project. May 2009
- The 2009 Capitol Hill Award from the National Bible Association for his exemplary commitment to Bible reading. The National Bible Association created the Capitol Hill Award in 2005 to recognize and honor national leaders who set an example for others by seeking first to govern themselves before working to govern others. May 2009
- The Golden Shoe Award at the Shoes and Clothes for Kids' 2009 Heart & Sole Luncheon for his outstanding leadership and attributes over the years that have impacted the quality of life for Cleveland's children. October 2009
- The "Bring People Home" award from Columbus Housing Partnership at their annual Bringing People Home Celebration. October 2009
- The 2009 International Voluntary Service Award from the Partners of the Americas for his leadership in demonstrating and promoting international volunteerism. December 2009

2010 AND THE VOINOVICH LEGACY

A Life in Service to the People of Ohio

“After decades in an arena that has sullied so many, Voinovich’s personal integrity remains unquestioned. He has never been afraid to work across the aisle, and has never forgotten that tax money comes from the wallets of hard-working people.”

– Editorial, **Sen. George Voinovich plans to bid politics farewell, integrity intact**, Cleveland Plain Dealer, January 13, 2009

“Even if you don't agree with Voinovich’s political views, you have to respect his fiscal conservatism, the integrity of his work and discipline to his strong personal beliefs. He's a refreshing, honest politician who puts the public's interest first.”

– Editorial, **Ohio losing valuable politician with Voinovich**, The Newark Advocate, January 15, 2009

“[Senator Voinovich] has been an outstanding leader for Ohio because his passion for public service is rooted in his belief in the spirit and ingenuity of Ohioans and in never backing down from a problem, no matter how difficult.”

– **Bill Harris**, Ohio Senate President

“Voinovich has served his state and nation as a reasonable, caring and compassionate Republican leader who could work with all factions.”

– Editorial, **Sen. Voinovich’s successor will have some big shoes to fill**, Lorain Morning Journal, January 13, 2009

“Even though he is one of 100 U.S. senators, Voinovich can move about Capitol Hill in relative anonymity because he neither needs nor wants the exposure so many of his colleagues crave, too often risking their integrity to appease incendiary talk-show hosts.”

-Opinion, **Joe Hallett: Voinovich will leave Senate next year, but he won't go quietly**, Columbus Dispatch, May 3, 2009

“George Voinovich has built a storied career and legacy as a strong voice for Ohio. He has a long record of service to his state and to northeast Ohio.”

- **Armond Budish**, Ohio Democratic House Speaker

“Friends and colleagues agree on retiring Ohio senior Senator George Voinovich’s defining characteristic – his integrity.”

- Article, **'Man of absolute integrity' Friends recall the man who would become**, Wooster Daily Record, January 14, 2009

“[Senator Voinovich is] one of the greatest public servants of our time. Ohio is a better place because of his principled leadership, passionate advocacy, and his commitment to future generations.”

- Rob Portman, Article, **Voinovich retiring, says he won't seek 3rd term**, Toledo Blade, January 13, 2009